

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested. Claims 9 and 16 are amended without prejudice or disclaimer.

Objection to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the Abstract and requires correction. Applicants have corrected the Abstract as required and request withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract.

Rejection of Claims 1-3 and 5-8 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chapados et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,356,869) ("Chapados et al.") in view of Abella et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,044,347) ("Abella et al."). Applicants have cancelled these claims thus rendering this rejection moot.

Rejection of Claims 9-11, 13-14, 16-18 and 20-21 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 9-11, 13-14, 16-18 and 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chapados et al.. Applicants have amended the claims as suggested under the allowable subject matter. Therefore, parent claims 9 and 16 have been amended thus rendering this rejection moot.

Rejection of Claims 23-25 and 27-30 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 23-25 and 27-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Abella et al. in view of Chapados et al.. Applicants have cancelled these claims without prejudice or disclaimer thus rendering this rejection moot.

Rejection of Claim 4 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chapados et al. in view of Abella et al. and further in view of Brown et al. (U.S. Patent No.

5,699,456) ("Brown et al."). Applicants have cancelled this claim thus rendering this rejection moot.

Rejection of Claim 26 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chapados et al. in view of Abella et al. and further in view of Brown et al.. Applicants have cancelled claim 26 thus rendering this rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action states that claims 12 and 19 will be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 12 and 29 have been cancelled and their subject matter has been incorporated into the parent claim as well as the intervening claims 10-12 and 17-18 respectively. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present case is patentable and in condition for allowance.


Applicants anticipate filing a continuation application and reserve the right to present the cancelled claims as well as broader claims therefrom of the appropriate scope in the continuation application. Specifically, Applicants note that there may be broader aspects of amended claims 9 and 16 for which Applicants may seek coverage.

CONCLUSION

Having addressed all rejections and objections, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If necessary, the Commissioner for Patents is authorized to charge or credit the **Novak, Druce & Quigg, LLP, Account No. 14-1437** for any deficiency or overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

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